

## THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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## Editorial.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

Still they come. The Western North Carolina Methodist Conference joined the procession and heartily endorsed the reformatory. Next.

Governor-elect Aycock is known as a zealous friend of popular education. We hope he will make "better schools and better feeling" the key note of his inaugural address.

Here's an encouraging item from the Winston Sentinel: "The next Legislature may make itself famous by taxing dogs for the benefit of the children. Heretofore the argument has been to tax the dogs for the benefit of the sheep and the dogs always got the better of the argument. We shall see if the children fare better than the sheep."

The Gastonia News warns its readers against the fakirs that are humbugging farmers with unscientific fertilizer formulas. The State press ought to work unanimously against such cattle. The best way to strike them and others of their ilk is to increase the circulation of experimental station bulletins and first-class farm newspapers.

The National Farmers' Congress has some good men, men at heart deeply interested in the welfare of the farmers, but they appear to be badly in a minority just at this time. The politician—farmer seems to be using it quite extensively. We notice that the infamous ship subsidy bill was endorsed at the recent session of the Congress at Colorado Springs.

The great Gattis-Kilgo trial, ten days after the beginning of this, one of the greatest legal battles in the history of North Carolina, came to a close Saturday evening. The jury found Gattis correct in each of his charges against Messrs. Kilgo, Duke and Odell, and fixed the damages at \$20,000. Appeal was taken; the defendants will ask the Supreme Court to grant a new trial.

There was never a better time to renew your subscription. Every delinquent is expected to pay up before January 1, 1901. Regarding each subscriber as a friend, we shall be as lenient and obliging as possible, but we shall be compelled to change our tactics in regard to those who neither make a payment nor do us the common courtesy of reporting an excuse before the end of this month. A hint to the wise is sufficient.

A bill to regulate child labor in cotton factories was at last accounts being favorably regarded by the Georgia Legislature. It prohibits the employment of children under twelve years of age, and of those unable to read between the ages of twelve and fourteen, exempting children of indigent widows from the provisions of the law. Such a law ought to be passed by our State Legislature. The Charlotte Observer, which keeps well in touch with factory interests, says: "Public sentiment calls for legislation in this direction and it is our understanding that the majority of cotton mill owners are not opposed to it."

The Southern Tobacco Journal says: "The probabilities are that the North Carolina Legislature, at its coming session, will be heard from on the trust question." Let us hope so. And when some sincere anti-trust man presents a genuine anti-trust bill, the people should hold to strict accountability those who smother it with amendments, as has too often been done.

The increasing number of thoughtful letters received from practical Tar Heel farmers is very gratifying to us. Let the good work go on. When you see a subject discussed on which you have had some experience or about which you desire further information, write us. We shall be glad to hear from you, whether you wish to tell your own experience or ask for that of others.

Press dispatches announce that the Russian government will on January 1st put on a duty of 80 cents a barrel on flour for Siberia. The object is to monopolize the rapidly growing trade for the Black Sea millers. It will be a hard blow to the Pacific coast millers, who have been building up a big trade through Vladivostok with Siberia, and may slightly affect the price of American wheat.

The ship subsidy bill, if successful, will be one of the most gigantic steals ever pushed through an American Congress. Something over \$2,500,000 annually will be presented, a free gift, for the "protection" of our ship-building industry, already able to compete successfully with any other nation on earth. Doubtless some Congressmen will feather their nests liberally, if the bill passes.

Sometime ago suit was brought by the Seaboard Air Line excepting to an order of the Corporation Commission, fixing the rate to be charged for the transportation of fertilizers and establishing a "minimum car-load" of ten tons. The Superior Court decided against the railroad, and, upon appeal, the Supreme Court last week sustained the Commission. This was a case of considerable importance to fertilizer-buying farmers.

At its meeting here this week the State Board of Agriculture will doubtless elect a State Veterinarian to succeed Dr. Cooper Curtice, who some weeks ago accepted a more lucrative position with the Rhode Island Agricultural College. The position is one of great importance, and an efficient man in it can make himself worth many times his salary. The work which Dr. Curtice so well nurtured and which promises to be of so much value to our cattle interests, should not be allowed to lag.

The fact that our Soldiers' Home at Raleigh is in want and that a large number of insane persons are confined in our county jails deserves the thoughtful consideration of our people. Economy is all right, but the legislator that uses the cry of economy to excuse his failure to vote adequate appropriations for the State's charitable institutions becomes a demagogue rather than a statesman. The Soldiers' Home and the insane asylums ought to have more liberal support.

An esteemed contemporary published in this section of the State in its issue of last week gave a list of agricultural papers that ought to be read by Tar Heel farmers. The list includes two New York papers, a Pennsylvania paper, a Georgia paper and a Virginia paper. After all, would it not be well for North Carolina papers to read a North Carolina farm paper instead of sending to Pennsylvania, Kamechatka, or Kentucky for farm papers unsuited to North Carolina conditions and managed by men but little interested in the development of our State?

Did you send us the names of some of your neighbors last winter and request us to send them sample copies? If one of them failed to subscribe, now that crops are being sold and the farmers receiving some ready money, call on him and solicit his subscription. Perhaps he could not easily spare the money last spring, but can do so now. Try to get his subscription, anyhow. No harm done if you fail.

We expect to see free rural delivery of mail extended over the greater portion of North Carolina within a few years. It would assist wonderfully in the development of State. Free rural delivery is growing more popular every day. Once tried, no neighborhood can understand how it ever managed to get along without it. We hope that our North Carolina Congressmen will work for its further extension.

### TRUSTS AGAIN.

As an example of the power of monopoly, we note the fact that Standard Oil stock has paid nearly 50 per cent. dividends this year and is now selling at more than \$700 per share—seven times its par value. This high-handed robbery is not being done in a corner, but publicly, openly. And the people are beginning to think about it. Let those in authority beware—something must be done to throttle the power of the trusts. And let capitalists themselves beware. There is retribution in history. The monopolists that are now sowing the wind may reap the whirlwind. Capital's best friends are not those readiest to excuse and hide the evils of monopoly, but those that are urging fairer laws. Socialists are rejoicing at the growth of trusts. One of their leaders in the West, Prof. George D. Herron, says:

"I wish the trusts well. I hope they will grow and increase until the public mind becomes so accustomed to the thought of trusts that they will resolve on one gigantic trust, government ownership and a socialized state. Trusts are the forerunners of socialism. May their tribe increase."

### THE LEAP YEAR PROBLEM.

An Alamance county correspondent wishes to know why this was not a leap year, as it has been four years since the last one. Only the scientist can explain the matter fully, but this is the gist of the case: A year proper is "the period of time required by the sun to pass from one vernal equinox to another"—365 days 5 hours 48 minutes 49.7 seconds, as astronomical calculations have demonstrated. Losing this excess over the 365 days each year, in four years we have lost 23 hours 15 minutes 18.8 seconds—not quite a day. So we have leap year. But the loss is not quite a day and having each fourth year a leap year with a gain of 44 minutes 41.2 seconds, we gain in 100 years 18 hours 37 minutes, 10 seconds—lacking a little more than 5 1/4 hours of a full day. Having gained this much it was found best to omit some centennial years from the leap year provision. But it will not do to omit all centennial years for in 400 years the time lost would then be 21 hours 31 minutes 20 seconds. So each fourth centennial year is a leap year. These, therefore, are the leap year rules: Every centennial year exactly divisible by 400 and all other years exactly divisible by 4 are leap years, all others are common years. As this is a centennial year not divisible by 400, this is not a leap year.

### ALLIANCE WORK IN WAKE.

In order to hear from all sections of the county it has been decided not to make the final announcement of appointments for Bro. Parker until Dec. 5th. A conference of interested farmers will be held in The Progressive Farmer office at 3 p. m. that day. Those who cannot attend but wish Bro. Parker to visit their sections, should at once write us or Bro. C. E. McCullers, Raleigh, N. C.

### FOR GOOD ROADS.

The National Good Roads Association has been organized, with headquarters in Chicago. Among advocates of good roads in North Carolina, the name of Prof. J. A. Holmes "leads all the rest," and he was, very appropriately, made one of the vice-presidents of the new organization. The platform of the National Good Roads Association may be summed up as follows:

First, that a highway commissioner be appointed by each State to have charge of all roads.

Second, that the poll tax be abolished and all taxes for road maintenance be paid in cash. This includes the repeal of the statute labor laws.

Third, that a State road plan be adopted in all States, including the employment of convict labor in preparation of material for roads.

A resolution was passed urging Congress to appropriate \$150,000 in the coming budget for public road inquiry and urging upon Postmaster-General that he make it a requisite to recommending rural free delivery that the locality desiring it must maintain a good, hard road.

Three-fourths of the tobacco growers of Harrison county, Ky., have signed an agreement not to raise any tobacco in 1901, the idea being to enhance the value of the product now in store and shed.

### MEETING OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE.

The thirty-fourth annual meeting of the National Grange, the strongest American farmers' organization, was held in Washington City last week with delegates present from 24 States at the first roll call. At the meeting of the National Grange last year official figures showed that 146 new granges had been organized during the year. At the present session the records show 183, an increase of 37. Reviewing Grange work, the American Grange Bulletin says:

"The past year has been above the average as a successful one in Grange work. Thirty-seven more new Granges have been organized than in the preceding year. Its lines have been strengthened in the weaker States. Confidence in leaders and policies has been still more restored. The excitements, animosities and smooth tricks of politicians in a presidential campaign have not broken our lines or weakened our faith. In our battles for reforms in the halls of legislation there may be dents in our shields but no defeat for our banners. Our lines have been advanced on all the special lines of work marked out by the National Grange a year ago. Rural free delivery is no longer an experiment but an enthusiastic success. Our dairy interests, with hundreds of millions of dollars invested, have almost secured the protection of the Grouse bill, our pure food laws, equal taxation, railroad control, anti-trust and other measures have progressed most favorably. The ship subsidy scheme which the Grange condemned has not been able to overcome the opposition of the organized farmers and laboring men."

The Worthy Master of the National Grange, Aaron Jones, is a man of big brain and big heart. The extracts from his address which we give on another page are worth study.

Altogether, the Grange is doing a great work and making good headway.

### FREEDOM IN THE EDUCATIONAL WORLD.

The forced resignation of Dr. Edward Ross, head professor of Economics and Sociology at Stanford University, because he expressed some opinions of his own without waiting to have them examined and approved by the millionaire "philanthropist" who supports Stanford has created a sensation in the educational world. Dr. Ross was in no sense an agitator or an extremist. He simply did some thinking for himself and claimed the right of free speech, with the result just mentioned.

What is to be the end of this tendency? What shall the harvest be? It is a difficult problem. Liberty is a commendable virtue, but human nature is so constructed that a gift from an unworthy source often does harm rather than good. Twice, and in almost identically the same words, did God remind Israel of this fact. In Exodus 23:8: "And thou shalt take no gift; for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous." And in Deut. 16:19 to Israel's judges: "Thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift; for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise and pervert the words of the righteous." Profane, as well as sacred history has spoken on this matter. "Beware of Greeks bearing gifts" has been a proverb ever since the days of the fabled Trojan horse. Most of our States have found it necessary to prohibit the gift of free passes by railroads to judges and other public officials. Four hundred years ago Charles VIII of France made it unlawful for a judge to accept any place or pension from any noble under heavy penalty.

Of course our laws ought to be so constructed as to make legality a synonym for honesty. But while it is possible for heartless monopolists to amass millions by methods of robbery not yet under the ban of the law, it is undoubtedly best to accept the conclusion of a leader in educational circles as given in the November Atlantic Monthly:

"There is no duty before the academic and religious world in America more pressing than the duty of strengthening the demand that methods of acquiring wealth come wholly under the dominion of the moral sense. There is no opportunity more significant, more in danger of closing forever, than the opportunity of convincing the public at large, by definite sacrifice of worldly advantage, if need be, that the intellectual life of the country, as represented by its organized centers, is disinterested, honest, and free."

## The Thinkers.

### INGALLS-ISMS.

Office-holding is like serving on the jury, or in the army and navy in time of war. It is a duty, an obligation which the State demands of its citizens, since it can be performed by no one else. It should be honorable and desirable, as without it the State would perish. In no other way can its functions be carried on, and it is therefore to be deplored that, instead of being serious and defined in their province, political careers are so random, helter-skelter and uncertain that they appear in common thought to combine the tinsel bombast of the stage, the fever of the gaming-table and the desperate hazard of battle.

Grave, calm and tranquil natures that love method and the orderly sequences of life, preferring the steady profits of trade to the glittering chances of faro and roulette, place politics in the same category with poker and pugilism. So that to describe a man as a politician is to taint a disparagement implying faint, disrepute and stain. This is lamentable and unjust. Instead of being a stigma it should be a decoration and ornament. The degradation of politics is impossible without the degradation of the people.

The press and the platform resound with denunciation of bad government in the United States. There is much declamation against corruption in Congress, municipal boodles, ring rule, legislation for monopolies, bosses, plutocrats, trusts and corporations.

Much of this clamor is manufactured by ignorant and dishonest demagogues, and is both sinister and insincere.

But were it true in terms, the appropriate answer would be that the people are supreme and have just as good government as they desire or deserve. If taxes are excessive, revenues squandered, and fools and knaves occupy high places, the people are to blame.

If a legislator sells his vote, the consistency that elected him is primarily at fault. If a mute and stolid millionaire sits dumbly in the Senate, speechless save at the roll-call, and almost inaudible then, finding in the public service only the occasion for brutal indulgence or vulgar ostentation, the State that sends him is responsible for the degradation. He represents the choice and preference of the majority of its citizens or he would not be there. His credentials are a waiver of complaint, reproach or reproach of his defects.—Ex-Senator John J. Ingalls in Saturday Evening Post.

### WORK FOR THE LEGISLATURE.

There are two things of immense importance that both our legislators and the people should set their heads resolutely to do. One is to provide education for every child in the State, and not only to provide the means, but also pass a law compelling him to attend school a reasonable part of every year between his sixth and his eighteenth years. The second is to adopt a scientific method of road building, so that the roads of our country may be made passable at any and at all times. The way our schools are managed now, thousands of children are permitted to grow up in ignorance because, carelessly or viciously, parents neglect to send them to school. It is the State's duty to provide good schools, and to enforce a mild compulsory school law is a right which the State ought to exercise at once. The next legislature has the opportunity to immortalize itself without being radical in any but the best sense of that term. An ignorant citizenship is bound to be low. Only the lowest class of tenants will live in the hovels some land owners provide; a highly cultured and Christian people cannot exist in a country whose roads are bad. The schools and the roads are powerful levers to uplift a people. Let the work begin and be pushed.—Fremont Rural Visitor.

### DRAW THE LINE ON GAMBLERS.

Referring to its coming fair, the Winston Sentinel says: "A warning—see that no license is given swindlers and vulgar shows next week."

It is a common saying that a fair cannot be conducted successfully in North Carolina without the large troop of fakirs which usually attend them. This may be true. We have no objections to them, if the charge is announced at the door and a man is asked to pay a specific price to see a two-headed negro, a snake eater,

or any kindred attraction, it is all right. He pays his money and sees what he sees.

But this way the fairs have of admitting gambling schemes, which profess to be nothing else and thrive only on the ignorance of a certain class of people who attend the fairs, should be stopped. Wheels of fortune and greasy pigs have no right place in fairs promoted and patronized by honest, decent people. At any of these games may be seen the combined machinations of half a dozen confederates for the purpose of robbing some poor, ignorant and often drunken, fellow of the few hard earned dollars which his poor wife is begging him to spend for his children's winter shoes. And the worst part of it is that this robbery is licensed, permitted, and encouraged by the fair management, not a member of which would himself do a wrong thing. Why is it? It is no answer or excuse to say that the loser goes into it voluntarily, and attempts to get the best of the game, because the game is always so arranged that the sum total of the gambler's earnings are a large increase over his losses, all of which he has cheated the crowd out of. And he was licensed to do this very thing. He knew he would play a winning game, and paid for the privilege.—Greensboro Telegram.

It is gratifying to see the great religious denominations of the State, taking high ground in favor of the establishment of an institution for the reformation of youthful criminals. The Presbyterian Synod last week, expressed to its view of the matter in no uncertain terms. The Baptist Convention and the Methodist Conferences will no doubt follow in terms equally as clean out when they meet. Much painful work will be spared to our judges, no little expense will be lifted from the State, many young men, not yet hardened in crime, will be schooled in virtuous principle and useful citizenship and, best of all, souls saved. We know no way the State can better invest several thousand dollars annually than to sustain this reformatory. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It is a great deal cheaper to shut up the saloons as cause of crime, than to pay court expenses to try, and jails and penitentiaries to imprison crimes.—Rev. P. R. Law in Lumberton Robesonian.

### THE NEW NORTH CAROLINA.

Secretary John E. White says that within the past ten years, without knowing it ourselves, the old North Carolina passed into history and a new State has come into being. This much nearer the truth than one would at first suppose. 'His silent and swift transformation has gone on with constantly increasing speed, and it is easy enough for one at all acquainted with the State as a whole to see the changes as they come to pass. Our people do not think as they once thought. The fine old civilization of the South—the highest and the best the world ever saw—is only a memory. We are leaping forward in commercial development at a marvellous rate. Farming is no longer to be the main means of support for our people. Manufacturing is all the go now. It is going to absorb the attention of the people until we move all the mills of New England to our doors. We are facing already the problems that come from the factory. Our cities are now the centers of interest. The population is hastening from the country to the town. Here is the problem: What shall we do with the child?—Charity and Children.

What a travesty on law and order that a negro is taken up and put on the chain gang for stealing chickens when so many of the very men instrumental in his punishment go about fat enough on the labors of others that they are not making an honest effort to pay for. It's an outrage, pure and simple. The man who steals is as good as the man who enjoys your labors and belies you into trusting him to that for which he does not try to pay you.—Concord Standard.

Recently a gentleman of much intelligence, standing with us and looking out over a fine stretch of cultivated farm lands, said that if he were just twenty-one years old, with his present tastes, he would devote his life to farming. He has spent his life thus far in a different pursuit; but after many years of constant application in his chosen work he says that farming seems to carry with it an independence that few other pursuits do.—Scotland Neck Commonwealth.